

DOROTHEA COOKE PARIS

THE WATUMULL FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Dorothea Cooke Paris

(1899 - 1992)

Mrs. Paris is a descendant of several prominent families; the Cookes and Rices on her father's side; the Loves and Johnsons on her mother's side. She is the granddaughter of Charles M. and Anna Rice Cooke and the daughter of Clarence Hyde and Lily Love Cooke.

The first of eight children, she was born in the family's home on Keeaumoku Street when the Makiki area was known as The Plains. She graduated from Punahou School and attended Bryn Mawr, then worked for the YWCA for awhile before she married Edwin Lewers Paris in 1924. They had four daughters, all of whom are married.

This transcript contains Mrs. Paris' reminiscences about her family, friends, and childhood experiences.

Lynda Mair, Interviewer

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INTERVIEW WITH DOROTHEA COOKE PARIS

(MRS. EDWIN LEWERS PARIS)

At her Kahala home, 1010 Koloa Street, Honolulu 96816

In late 1971

P: Dorothea Cooke Paris

M: Lynda Mair, Interviewer

M: (adjusting the microphone) So I pick up everything.

P: Probably too much. (Lynda laughs)

M: Well you know, when I get it rewritten you'll have the opportunity to erase or change or delete anything you would like to, so . . . Don't want to use anything that might . . .

P: I just don't know what you want particularly.

M: Yeh, okay. Well, to start with I would like to know something about your own background.

P: You mean what my name is? (chuckles)

M: Yes, all that personal data I need initially.

P: All right. My name is Dorothea Paris and I was a Cooke. Maybe you'd better put Dorothea Cooke Paris.

M: Yes, right.

P: I was born in 1899 (both chuckle) so now you know my age. I was born on Keeaumoku Street which now is property with a whole lot of little houses on it. At that time it was the neighborhood of lots of my family's friends--young people, of course, because I was young then--and I had many playmates around that I played with.

M: Like what were some of the names?

P: The Petersons and the Browns but, you see, they're not here any longer so it's hard to tell you. You want to

know who they are now or something? No?

M: Well, if their names mean something in Hawaii, yes.

P: Mrs. [Elias Wells] Peterson and Mrs. [Willard Elias] Brown, the mothers, were Hoppers [Mary Jane and Ellen Reany Hopper, respectively] of the Hopper family, an old family here; not a missionary family but an old family. They lived right across the street from me and the other Hoppers lived up the road farther but they were older so I didn't play with them.

And let's see, who else? I can't think who else except next door to us at that time lived a family by the name of Pratt, who no longer live here, and I played with them. The Pratt family.

M: This Pratt family is not connected to the Scott Pratt family.

P: No, no. I think he was a contractor down here or something. And the Bushes lived behind us too, which is Roy Bush's family. Do you know Roy Bush?

M: No, I know the name from other mention.

P: He was one of the Bushes. There was a family of five boys who were always getting into mischief. (laughter) We called them the naughty Bush boys and they've grown up very nice people. (laughter)

Then others who lived up the road from us were the Waterhouses and the Platt Cookes--the J. P. Cookes.

M: Uh huh. Now let's see, you're the daughter of . . .

P: I'm the daughter of Clarence [Hyde] Cooke; the granddaughter of Charles M. Cooke. I'm the oldest granddaughter of Charles and Anna Cooke and he was married to Anna [Charlotte] Rice, so I'm related to the Rices too. My mother's name was Lily Love and her father [Robert Love] started Love's Bakery. (chuckles)

M: Oh yeh, so you're really related around to . . .

P: Oh yes.

M: Is that Lily L-I-L-Y?

P: Yes. She didn't like her name so none of us were named Lily. (Lynda laughs) And I was the oldest of eight children.

M: Oh my goodness. You must have had a large house.

P: Yes. Well, when I was born it was in a little house on Keeaumoku Street but then, when I was about three and a half years old, we rented a house up the street and built a big house. There were three of us girls first and my second sister--it was just before she was born so that's why they needed a larger house, I'm sure. And that big old house was moved many years ago and it was subdivided after we moved. We moved from there up to Old Pali Road.

M: The house was moved?

P: No. The house was moved down to Waikiki and made into an apartment house.

M: Oh really? One of those along the Ala Wai?

P: It's not there any longer. No, it was right along the ocean beyond where Brenda [Cooke (Mrs. J. Scott B.) Pratt, III] lives [2979 Kalakaua Avenue], you know, down that way toward Diamond Head.

We had a big yard [on Keeaumoku Street] which, of course, my father and mother had planted. In that day it was called The Plains. From about Piikoi Street over to Punahou [Street] was all just nothing but plains and everyone had to plant their own trees. We had many fruit trees--beautiful mango and pear trees. My mother was interested in gardening so we had lots of plants around. In front of our place, up along Keeaumoku Street, was a row of golden showers that bloomed every year.

M: Are those still there?

P: No, because there're all little houses there now. They're all cut down. Some of the trees inside, I think, are still there--the mango trees and the pear trees--but not very many. It was right on the corner of Heulu and Keeaumoku [streets].

M: Uh huh. And you lived there until you were how old?

P: Until I was married. I was married there.

M: Oh, I see. You said something about your parents moved up to the Old Pali Road.

P: My parents moved up to the Old Pali Road, which is the house that Loy Marks has now, if you know which one that is. [3860 Old Pali Road, Mrs. Lester A. Marks's home]

M: Yeh, but that was after you were married.

P: That was after I was married. I was married at that house, yes.

M: Oh, I see.

P: I went to Punahou [School] when I was eight years old. My father taught me at home before that so I didn't go to the first grade; I went directly to the second grade.

M: Oh, how did your father find time to teach you?

P: In the evenings. (both chuckle)

M: You went to school in the evening.

P: He was very good with children and he was interested in teaching me, I don't know, at odd times. But not Sundays. We had a ritual Sunday. We went to Sunday School and then to church and then we came home and had a large dinner prepared by the servants. We had quite a few servants in that day. We were never allowed to study on Sunday or play any games. However, we could read and in the late afternoon we drove in the horse and buggy to visit our grandparents or sometimes the long ride out to the Diamond Head lighthouse. (laughter)

Then I went to Punahou and graduated from Punahou. We walked to Punahou unless it was a very rainy day. If it was a very rainy day, the yardman had to get the horse and buggy together and we were taken to school in the horse and buggy and then we were late to school. Usually we walked to school because it wasn't too far.

M: Did you go to school the normal eight to two [o'clock] type of thing?

P: Yes, um hm, regular Punahou School. I graduated from Punahou in 1918 and went to Bryn Mawr. I only went three years to college--I didn't graduate--and I went to Europe for one year. And then I came back and worked in the YWCA for a little bit and then I was married.

M: How did you meet your husband?

P: My husband lived about four blocks away. I'd known him all his life. His mother and my mother were very good friends. And you know, something--we always said it was something anyway--both our mothers and fathers were born here, on both sides of the family. He was a Paris of the Paris family. His grandfather was not a missionary Paris

--there are missionary Parises--he was a brother of a missionary who came down later to visit his brother and stayed.

M: And the Lewers, is that the mother?

P: No, his mother's name was Schmidt. Her father was German. He was in Hackfeld and Company at that time, which is now American Factors. [H. W. Schmidt was a partner from 1878 until 1889 when he left to set up a business of his own.] The Lewers comes from the Lewers family. Let's see, my husband's father's mother was a Lewers so we're related to the Lewers & Cooke Lewers--those same ones.

M: Oh, I see. Did you, as a child, know all of these different families that you were related to?

P: Oh yes, we had to call on them all and we called them all Aunt and Uncle and whatnot. Everyone knew everyone in that day because, you know, everyone had lived here. New people came, yes. New people came and we met them and knew them too. Now, what else do you want to know?

M: Well, what kind of social life did you have as a young woman?

P: As a child or what?

M: Or as a child, yeh. To begin with, as a child.

P: Oh, birthday parties when I was young and then at Punahou, when I was older, we had dances at school and dances at homes; went to dancing school.

M: Can you tell me something about dancing school?

P: Mrs. Gunn taught dancing school and she was related to the Carter family and she was quite a lady. She loved to dance and she taught us manners et cetera at dancing school. We had lots of fun, of course. [Mary Caroline Wilder Gunn]

M: Did you actually enjoy it? Enjoy dancing?

P: Oh, loved it. Loved it. (chuckles) It was very gay. And also, we did a lot of picnicking and tramping. You see, we also had a place on the Old Pali Road which we went to in the summertime. My father had lived up near there when he was younger and every Sunday, instead of going to church on Sunday when we were up there--it was too far to go to church with a horse and carriage--we went tramping in the woods up there, all behind the Old Pali

Road and behind. . . . You know where Luakaha is?

M: Yes.

P: Luakaha is the place where Mrs. [John Buel] Guard lives now [4113 Pali Road] and that belonged to my grandmother and grandfather at that time.

M: Uh huh, I've seen pictures of it. Brenda [Cooke Pratt] showed me some of her pictures.

P: We went up in the mountains behind there and valleys up there and found land shells. And when we were staying up there we often had lots of company. Friends came up with their children to stay a couple of nights. We were each allowed to bring a friend.

Then when I was a little older--all this was before I married--we started going to Molokai because my grandfather [Cooke] had bought a ranch up there which my Uncle George Cooke managed. Do you know the George Cookes? Dora [Cooke (Mrs. Stephen A.)] Derby is a Cooke--that family. He was the manager of the ranch up there and we used to go and visit him. And then later they had a house built for family to use up there. The whole tribe would go up on one of these little boats called the Mikahala--inter-island boat--along with servant, car, baggage.

M: The car went too?

P: Oh yes. By that time we had cars, you see, and the car went up. And then it was quite a thing to get off--we had to get off into little rowboats to go in to the wharf. Then on the wharf there was this donkey cart. There was a track out to the wharf and it was a donkey cart that pulled everybody in.

M: What do you mean by pull everybody in?

P: It was kind of a long flatbed with benches on it. We would arrive there late at night and get into the car and go up to our house which was up on the hills, arriving about two o'clock in the morning. It was always with great excitement.

M: I'll bet. (laughter) And then you'd spend several weeks, I suppose, huh?

P: Oh, sometimes a month or two. In the summer this was only. We rode horseback a lot then and we had friends up again. They all had to ride horseback too. We would ride up in the mountains. When we were children, we didn't do much

deer hunting. The older people went deer hunting; we stayed home and went swimming in the swimming pool.

Now what else would you like to know?

M: Can you go back and tell me memories of your parents and experiences you had in your family?

P: What kind of things?

M: For instance, any particularly exciting events or . . .

P: Oh yes, yes. On the top of our house--this was the big house at Keeaumoku Street--there was, of course, an attic; then from the attic you went up and you could look all over the ocean up above there. And from there we saw Halley's Comet which was very, very exciting because it went all across the sky. Maybe it wasn't as big as I remember it but then I thought it was tremendous.

M: Uh huh. That was what, 1910?

P: Oh, when was that? I don't know. I have no idea of the date. [May 18, 1910]

M: I don't really know either.

P: You'll have to look that up. I wouldn't know. Maybe I can look it up for you. It'd be in an encyclopedia, wouldn't it?

M: Yeh, yeh, that's easy to find.

P: Then let's see what other exciting things we did. I don't know whether you want my whole life or whether you want just when I was a little girl.

M: Well, the emphasis is on the earlier recollections of things that happened.

P: Yes, well, I can remember when Liliuokalani died--Queen Liliuokalani. We were taken down to the Kawaiahao Church and all walked in and walked by her bier and out again. And then, for her funeral [procession], which of course went up Nuuanu Avenue, we went to our friends' house and watched the funeral parade go by.

M: What was the parade like?

P: Oh, kahilis and Hawaiians walking, not in feather capes at all but just walking in dark clothes, and bands. I didn't know Queen Liliuokalani, though I did once meet Queen Li-

liuokalani. She was an old, old lady when I met her. There's a plaque in the Kawaiahao Church in memory of my Grandmother and Grandfather Cooke and that was when I met her--when we went down to see it undraped, you know.

M: Uh huh.

P: Let's see, what else can I think of that would be interesting historically. I don't remember when we became a Territory, of course, because it was before I was born. My mother and father were married the day before we became a Territory. They were married on August 11, 1898 so they were married under the Hawaiian flag.

M: Were your parents strict in your upbringing?

P: Oh heavens, yes, we were missionaries.

M: Did they feel still that way?

P: Oh yes. I've said, on Sunday we could do nothing but go to church or go on a drive. I don't know how strict because we did mostly what other children did, except we went to church and Sunday School always. No, they weren't too strict, I guess.

M: Were your parents active in any kind of religious activities outside of the Sunday worship?

P: No. My grandfather sang in the choir but my father was not a singer. My great-aunt, who was my grandfather's sister, was an opera singer and she loved to sing and gave singing lessons here. Her name was Annis Montague Turner. Turner later was her married name. [Mary Annis Cooke married Charles H. Turner.] She sang under the name of Annis Montague.

M: Annis?

P: A-N-N-I-S. It's a family name. Let's see what else I can say.

M: What about holidays? Did you celebrate . . .

P: The Fourth of July, oh yes, we always had fireworks, which my father lit off. Of course that was in summer, you see, and we were up in Nuuanu then--up on the Old Pali Road--and we used to be able to hold the Roman candles and my sister Anna, who was later Mrs. Harold [T.] Kay, was holding a Roman candle and it shot back and burnt her arm badly. So after that they didn't allow us to hold a Roman

candle. But that was great excitement.

Let me see, what else did we do? That's the only holiday I can--oh Christmas! We had great things on Christmas. All the families got together on Christmas. Probably Brenda told you, for years we had a Christmas breakfast with all the Cooke family.

M: She told me about, as a child, getting dressed up to go to this every Christmas morning.

P: Yes, Christmas morning at nine o'clock and it was great fun because you saw all your cousins. There were lots of them much younger than I was, of course, that I didn't see all during the year too much of. Originally it was at my Aunt Lila, Mrs. Montague Cooke's, or my grandmother's house. That was before the Academy [of Arts]. My grandmother lived where the Academy is now and later she moved up to Makiki Heights, which [residence] belongs to the Academy now.

We always had the same menu. Do you want to know the menu we had for Christmas breakfast?

M: Certainly.

P: We had papayas or grapefruit. Sometimes grapefruit; usually papayas. And we had creamed turkey on toast with marmalade and all those things and English muffins and coffee and the children had milk. We always had the same menu every year. (laughter)

M: How did this get started, do you know?

P: Yes, my aunt, Mrs. Montague Cooke, started it. She thought it would be fun to get together for Christmas breakfast, so the first one was up at her house which is up in Manoa. And then my grandmother took it on later. They used to take turns having it at different houses.

M: Can you tell me more about your husband's side?

P: Yes. He was born here too and they lived on Wilder Avenue, before you get to 1010--you know, the new apartment houses down there now. There are apartment houses now where he lived. His father was the head of E.O. Hall & Son which was a store with sporting goods and hardware and things of that kind. It was on the corner of Fort and King streets. [Edwin H. Paris m. Marguerita M. Schmidt]

M: I've heard that name.

P: Yes. He was manager of that for quite a while and then

after that he was also manager of Schuman Carriage Company for a while before he died. He died fairly young. He died before we were married. My husband went to Cornell and when he died he had to come back here and went to the University [of Hawaii] for a while here. Then he worked at the Bank of Hawaii and then Lewers & Cooke.

M: I didn't get the Lewers connection straight when you told me.

P: Oh well, Christopher Lewers was the original Lewers of Lewers & Cooke and the Cooke was my grandfather. Then Christopher Lewers died and his nephew, Robert Lewers, took over. Christopher Lewers was a brother of my husband's grandmother, so that's where he got the Lewers name. [See p. 17]

M: I see.

P: Can you get that?

M: Yeh, yeh. Then your husband ended up with the family firm, so to speak.

P: At Lewers & Cooke.

M: Did he have any interest in it beyond . . .

P: No, not when he went to work there. No, it was run then by Mr. [Frederick] Lowrey, not the present Mr. Lowrey but his grandfather, and he hired him after he had been in the bank for a short time. That was all before we were married. Then he worked for Lewers & Cooke until he retired.

M: I see. When were you married?

P: In December of 1924.

M: So you'd been out of college, what, two years or so.

P: I was in the Class of 1922 at college. And we had four daughters. It was really quite amusing. Every one we expected to be a boy and my husband used to call them all Willie before they were born (laughter) and every one of the girls married a William, so we have four Bill's.

M: Oh for heaven sake! That's most unusual, isn't it.

P: Quite amusing. We thought it was very amusing. And they don't all live here; only two of them live here now. One daughter lives at Lanikai--Betty Dunford [Elizabeth Love

Paris (Mrs. William Sterling) Dunford]; and the other daughter lives in Manoa and her name is Rita [Martha Paris (Mrs. William Earl)] Cowell. Her husband is a helicopter rescue pilot and has been twice to Vietnam but is now back at Hickam [Air Force Base]. That's the youngest daughter.

Then one daughter [Mary Ann Paris (Mrs. Willis L.) Warner] . . . lives in California and one daughter [Dorothea Lewers Paris (Mrs. William) Rolph] lives in Auckland, New Zealand at the moment and her husband's with Pan American [Airways].

M: Where did you live when you were first married?

P: Well, we were building a house when we were first married and it wasn't finished, so we lived in a little house at Luakaha that my grandmother had built for her chauffeur (laughter) and we were allowed to have that. It was really a cute little house but then our house was down the road on Nuuanu Avenue. Let's see if I can tell you where. You know where you go up Nuuanu and you turn off to go to the Old Pali Road?

M: Yes.

P: Well, just on the right up above that. The Carters had a place there. Mr. and Mrs. Carter had a big house there and then we had--let's see, two in between. It was right along there, afterwards bought by Madge Tennent from us, but then it's changed hands several times since then. And then we moved up to the Old Pali Road and lived next door to where the [Herbert Montague] Monte Richards lived [3760 Old Pali Road]. Do you know where that is?

M: No.

P: [Robert Montague] Bob Cooke lived. . . . [3780 Old Pali Road] Well, it was originally Mrs. [Charles S. (Irene Ii)] Holloway's place. Mrs. Holloway is Francis [Ii] Brown's mother [whose first husband was Charles Augustus Brown]. You don't know any of those. (Lynda laughs) Not even Francis Brown?

M: Yes, yes.

P: Well, now what else do you want to know? I must find my scissors. I'm sorry, I thought I had them with me.

M: Okay. (recorder turned off and on again)

P: Then we moved over to--we also had a place at Lanikai and then we moved over to Kaneohe and lived on Kaneohe Bay when

my husband died and I didn't want to live there by myself so I moved here. I've only lived here for six years.

M: The yard is so lovely it looks like you've been here for ages.

P: Well, it was an old house when I bought it; it wasn't new. Lots of the things I've planted since.

M: Can you remember any other interesting stories about your childhood or your family or . . .

P: I'm trying to think.

M: . . . little things your parents might have told you about their earlier years here?

P: Can't think of earlier years. Why don't you go and talk to . . .

M: Did your parents go to Punahou too?

P: Not my mother. My mother went to a school on School Street. It was a public school. My father went to Punahou. My mother was very musical and she gave piano lessons before she was married.

M: Did you know the Loves very well, her side?

P: Oh yes. You mean my Grandmother Love?

M: Uh huh.

P: Do you know the Love family at all; any of the Love family?

M: No, not personally.

P: The Hoogses are all in the Love family and they are all cousins of mine. That was Christmas Eve we had that party. (chuckles)

M: With their side?

P: With the Love side.

M: I see. What sort of thing would that be?

P: I can only remember one well and that was when we were at Keeaumoku Street and we had the party. Santa Claus came and we were all excited. I guess I was about eight years old. No, younger than that. Anyway, the next morning I

heard my father say, "George left his whip." I was shattered because I knew it wasn't really Santa.

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The first time I went to Kauai I had my fourth birthday up there, I think it was, and of course we went by boat, you know, and I was not a good sailor. (chuckles) I did not care for the boat. My aunt gave me a horse for my birthday, which we had up at our Nuuanu place for a short time, but I didn't ride very much then. I was too young to. Oh, the whole family would be taken to the Volcano or the younger ones were left behind and the older ones went.

M: Did you stay with the family over there?

P: On Hawaii?

M: Uh huh.

P: No, we went to the Volcano House when I was there. My father often had to take trips to the other islands to see the sugar plantations because he was a director of some of them, so we used to go around the island in a car and stop at these various plantations. Not stay at them; just stop. Stop for lunch or something.

M: When did your father first get a car?

P: I guess about 1908. I think I was about nine years old. About then.

M: It was very early, wasn't it?

P: My grandfather had one in 1906. Did anyone ever tell you about all the floral parades? That was another thing. We had parades every Washington's Birthday.

M: No.

P: People would fix their cars up to go into a parade and there'd be prizes for the best car and that kind of thing. It was very, very attractive.

M: On what sort of holidays would they do this?

P: Washington's Birthday.

M: Oh. No, I haven't heard about that at all.

P: (chuckling) Really? Well, I'm surprised nobody remembers

that. Well for instance, I remember one time our car was used for Punahou School's thing. It was decorated in yellow chrysanthemums and blue ribbons and things. My mother had one of these electric cars, you know, and one time that was in the parade and my cousins drove it--I was too young to drive it--and it was full of white daisies and things. You know, they used to go to a lot of trouble for these parades.

M: Where did they get all the flowers?

P: Oh, they were made. They were not real--paper flowers. Some were real. Lots of it was made paper flowers.

M: Oh, I see.

P: You'll have to look up in the Archives and find pictures of the old floral parades and you can tell what they're like. It was kind of like they do for Aloha Week now only these were all private cars used instead of great huge things. I guess some busybody probably ran around and told all these people they had to put their cars in, I don't know. (laughter)

M: What sort of things did your mother do outside of her home? Community things or whatever.

P: Community work?

M: Um hm.

P: She was on the Kindergarten [and Children's Aid Association] board for years until she died, I guess. Do you know where the Rice Playground is? No, the Rice Kindergarten.

M: My children have been there.

P: Oh really? Well, that was given by the Rice family in memory of my Great-grandmother Rice [Mary Sophia Hyde Rice], who was a missionary, in I don't know what year but many years ago. It was first given as a playground only and then later on they put a kindergarten on it. It was given to the Kindergarten and Children's Aid Association and my mother was on the board of the Kindergarten because she was in charge of that--of that playground. Then when she died, I was a member and I've been a member of the Kindergarten board for forty years. I'm now called an advisor (Lynda chuckles) so I don't have to do very much except go to the meetings and advise.

M: Well, it's a very fine school. We were very happy with it.

P: I think it's very good. Of course we tried awfully hard to make it good. Who was the teacher when your children were there?

M: Oh. Oh dear.

P: How long ago? How old are your children?

M: Well, my two youngest children--I have two older ones and two younger ones and the two younger ones, I just took my youngest one out last year.

P: Oh.

M: I was going to leave her in for kindergarten this year but we moved over to Kailua and that didn't make sense.

P: Oh, no, I should say not.

M: We lived up in Manoa but we moved to Kailua so I have to put her in public school over there.

P: Well, they have a public school kindergarten there, don't they?

M: Yeh, uh huh, and my seven year old, he had his first year of school there at Mother Rice's in the kindergarten and loved it. He just dearly loved it. They were each there for two years.

P: Mrs. Darval is the new superintendent and I think she's excellent.

M: Yeh, she hadn't started, I don't think . . .

P: No, she's just this last year.

M: Well, I liked Mrs. Bonner very well. I was one of the mothers who was rather unhappy about seeing her leave because I liked her very much.

P: Doesn't she have a kindergarten over at Kailua now?

M: I don't know.

P: On that Church Road? I think so.

M: Hm, could be.

P: I thought she did. Maybe that didn't go through. I read about it in the paper once. One of the churches along there. Where do you live in Kailua?

M: Do you know where Kaimalino is?

P: Is that a street?

M: Well, it's an area next to the canal.

P: Oh, yes. Yes, I do. It's where Betty Midkiff [Elizabeth Midkiff Morris] lives down there?

M: Yeh, um hm, she's just down the street from us.

P: Yes, um hm. Oh yes, I think that's very nice there.

M: Yeh, we like it. The lots are so nice and big to raise our family and everything.

P: You get beautiful views.

M: We're madly growing vegetables and fruit trees.

P: Will the fruit trees do well there?

M: Some kinds do. And we're fortunate that we have a very thick panax hedge and then an oleander hedge in front of that so it's a good windbreak against the salt spray.

P: Yes, well I was thinking of the soil because it's too near the ocean.

M: Yeh, some people have a very sandy soil with no topsoil at all and we just fortunately happen to have good soil.

P: Oh, that's good.

M: Somewhere it washed in from someplace.

P: So what kind of fruit trees do you have?

M: We've got orange trees and avocados and papayas and bread-fruit, bananas.

P: Do the avocados do well there?

M: It's the one that's really struggling.

P: Yes, that's what I thought, because it isn't deep enough soil.

M: Um hm.

P: Because when I lived at Kaneohe we didn't have very good fruit trees. Of course, where we lived at Keeaumoku Street we had wonderful fruit trees.

M: Yeh, you can't beat Manoa.

P: There's the most beautiful soil there because it's all the wash from the mountains.

M: Yeh.

P: People around here have very good mango trees. I didn't plant one because I thought, oh, by the time I ever get mangoes I'll be dead, so I didn't. (laughter) I have papayas and that's about all. Limes and papayas.

M: Uh huh. Papayas are satisfying things to grow. They just shoot up and produce.

P: Yes, they are. And they're so much better than the papayas you get in the store. (counter at 119)

END OF INTERVIEW

Transcribed and edited by Katherine B. Allen

Edited by Dorothea Cooke Paris, 1981

NOTE: p. 10 Christopher H. Lewers came to Hawaii in 1850 and founded the firm of Lewers and Dickson which later became Lewers & Cooke. He died in 1870.

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THE WATUMULL FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

In May 1971, the Watumull Foundation initiated an Oral History Project.

The project was formally begun on June 24, 1971 when Katherine B. Allen was selected to interview kamaainas and longtime residents of Hawaii in order to preserve their experiences and knowledge. In July, Lynda Mair joined the staff as an interviewer.

During the next seventeen months, eighty-eight persons were interviewed. Most of these taped oral histories were transcribed by November 30, 1972.

Then the project was suspended indefinitely due to the retirement of the foundation's chairman, Ellen Jensen Watumull.

In February 1979, the project was reactivated and Miss Allen was recalled as director and editor.

Three sets of the final transcripts, typed on acid-free Permalife Bond paper, have been deposited respectively in the Archives of Hawaii, the Hamilton Library at the University of Hawaii, and the Cooke Library at Punahou School.